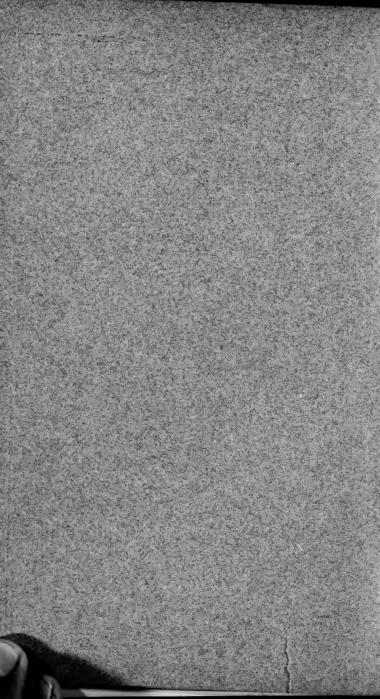
ANNUAL REPORTS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND LIBRARIAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - - - 1924



TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AND

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

1924



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1924

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¹ The president is ex officio a member of all committees.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Washington, October 13, 1924.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

In accordance with the law the library trustees now present to the commissioners their report for the fiscal year 1924. They take pleasure in pointing out the growing importance of the library's service to the community and the place it occupies in the public esteem, as shown by the increased circulation of books and enlarging demands for information made upon the reference and advisory services.

These demands cover the field of general literature, industrial and technical subjects, books for children, and illustrative material from the picture division. The circulation of children's books has increased 115 per cent in five years' time. Expressions of appreciation of the value of the library's service are numerous. One man who had come on from California says that he could not reckon in dollars and cents the value of the help he had received in the industrial division.

The Southeastern Branch completed it first full year with a circulation of 130,000 volumes. The immediate response of the community to the opportunities afforded by a local library demonstrates the value of branches. The congestion at the central building makes expansion through this form of agency an urgent and immediate need.

The trustees were most gratified, therefore, when through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation a second \$100,000 was available for the Mount Pleasant Branch Library. A large building is required for this densely populated and rapidly growing community. As yet there is no appropriation to operate the library when it is completed shortly after January 1. The trustees urge upon the commissioners the necessity that a supplemental or deficiency appropriation be secured in December, so that the branch will not stand idle during the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Budget Burean forwarded to Congress estimates for the conduct of three branches in public school buildings, but no provision was allowed for them for the fiscal year 1925. It is of the utmost importance that these branches should be provided for at the earliest possible moment. The commissioners, the Board of Education, and the Board of Library Trustees have all long been committed to the wise and economical plan of conducting branch libraries in school

buildings.

Since information service of value can be rendered only by an adequately trained staff, the inauguration of the graded and appropriately compensated personnel service through the operation of the classification act is the most important achievement of the year. In

the revision of the classification of the Government library service representatives of the Public Library, both trustees and staff, exerted every effort to have its badly underpaid staff receive adequate recognition and were successful to the extent of securing appropriate allocations for 68 out of the 97 positions. These included nearly all positions of junior and intermediate grade, but only a few of the more important positions. It is hoped that within the coming year the remaining positions, including those of the chief librarian, the assistant librarian, several heads of departments, and members of the senior professional and secretarial staffs, may be revised and

The trustees desire to draw the attention of the commissioners to the fact that the library's per capita expenditures for maintenance are but \$0.34 as against \$1 per capita, established by the American Library Association as the minimum with which a good, but not the best, library service may be secured. Many self-governed municipalities have more than \$1 per capita; for example, Cleveland, Ohio, \$1.27; Boston, Mass., \$1.20; Brookline, Mass., \$1.48; Newton, Mass., \$1.25; Gary, Ind., \$1.13; Pasedena, Calif., \$1.16; and Mason City. Iowa, \$1. Among cities above 200,000 population several are now spending approaching \$1 per capita on their public libraries, including Minneapolis, 88 cents; Providence, 87 cents; Indianapolis, 87 cents; and Seattle, 86 cents. The average of all the cities with a population of 200,000 and more is \$0.666. (See table, p. 14; and resolution of the American Library Association, p. 17.)

The importance of having a model public-library system in Washington is not only obvious to Washingtonians but has also received formal recognition this year through resolutions passed by two national bodies—the National Education Association, through its library department, on July 1, 1924, and the American Library Association, through its council, June 30, 1924. The resolutions, which appear in full in the appendix to the report (p. 17), urge upon Congress more liberal appropriations for the Public Library and the inauguration of plans that will develop in the Capital of the Nation a public-library system that will exemplify the best American

methods and standards of library administration.

The original estimates of the library trustees of the sums required to maintain the library service for the year 1926 are explained and defended in the following letter signed by Vice President Wendell P. Stafford for the library trustees, dated June 26, 1924, and forwarded to the District Commissioners through Commissioner Oyster, under whom among the commissioners the Public Library by assignment falls:

In compliance with the order of the commissioners dated June 13 concerning the submission of estimates, I have the honor to submit on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees the estimates for the maintenance of the Free Public Library, including branches, for the fiscal year 1925–26.

Inasmuch as these estimates involve a very considerable increase over appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year, it seems desirable to give the reasons that

justify and require such increases.

First, it should be stated that at the time of the adoption of these estimates at our last meeting before their submission not all of the factors are definitely known. It is understood that the Personnel Classification Board is revising its earlier tentative allocations of the library employees, and it is hoped and believed that the revised figures will bring increases in nearly all library

salaries, forcing increased estimates to pay such salaries. Second, we also understand that it is expected to provide in the estimates for promotional increments in salaries. Both of these are factors that should be taken into consideration, but can at present be represented in these estimates only by approximate figures, subject to revision as the facts develop.

Appended is a tabulation of our estimates. The following is an analysis of

the principal objects:

1. Increases in salaries of the present force.—Our present appropriation for the salaries of our staff of 100 persons is \$126,558. Our information is that the upward revision by the Personnel Classification Board will require \$136.624. We also estimate that \$5.990 will be required during the fiscal year to take

care of advances within grades as the result of efficiency ratings.

2. Increased staff of 17 persons for the present establishment and for general administration.-Last year we asked for an increase in staff of 20 persons. We administration.—Instruction, year we assect for an interested in state of 20 persons. We secured but 3 of these in the appropriation act; we are therefore asking for the remainder. We are now employing an average of 3 persons from our substitute fund and 7 from our desk fund and still must close the central library and branches every Wednesday at 3 p. m. and are otherwise obliged to curtail our service to the public. Our central library staff is desperately short to carry on our present work. But the work of purchasing, cataloging, and otherwise preparing great stocks of books for the large Mount Pleasant Branch and the six proposed school branches will throw a greatly increased burden on the central library staff. The library trustees believe it would be entirely indefensible to undertake the expansion program involved in these new branches without making proper provision for meeting the increased burden upon the central library staff caused by their organization and administration. These 17 persons will require \$25,800. The estimates are in accordance with the grades in the classification act of 1923 found most appropriate to the responsibilities of the new employees required.

3. New branch libraries.—These are of two classes, the first including the new Mount Pleasant Branch in a separate building, and the second including

six new branches in public-school buildings.

(a) The Mount Pleasant Branch Library building is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy shortly after January 1, 1925. We shall undoubtedly be obliged, if we are to avoid letting the branch stand idle and unused for the remainder of the fiscal year, to ask the Budget Bureau and Congress for supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1925. It is highly important that our estimates for the fiscal year 1926 for this branch should be adequate. That branch will serve a population of from 100,000 to 150.000. We should maintain a full 12-hour daily schedule, requiring two shifts of staff with service on two floors. For that we need a staff of 21 persons. This is what our estimates of a year ago called for, but they were reduced to 12. With a staff of 12 we could maintain service on one floor only, the adult department, but could not also open the children's department on the second

floor. A staff of 21 persons would require \$26,904.

(b) School branches.—Although our proposals for branch libraries in the Eastern High School and the Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools went to Congress with the approval of the Budget Bureau, we were unfortunately unable to induce the Appropriations Committees to provide for them. The overcrowded condition of the Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools makes it desirable to defer the proposals for branch libraries in those schools until they are enlarged, when library rooms with outside entrances

can be specially planned in them.

In the present estimates we renew our proposal for a branch in the Eastern High School, where a fine room all fitted up has for some time been waiting

for us.

In anticipation of the completion of the enlargement of the Armstrong Manual Training School next year, arrangements have been agreed upon for assigning two large rooms (to be thrown into one) in the old part of the building. A branch library there would serve the pupils of two high schools, one junior high school, and three grammar schools, as well as the adult colored population of that neighborhood. The large school and adult populations of the two neighborhoods to be served require full 12-hour-a-day service, including Saturdays and vacations. For the double-shift service it will be necessary to have a staff of four persons at each of these branches in high schools.

Our estimates also carry provisions for subbranches at the Bell and Deanwood Schools, both colored, and at the new Tenley School and the E. V. Brown School at Chevy Chase. It is proposed to operate the subbranches at the Bell and Deanwood Schools together, three days in each, with a staff of two persons working together, and the same scheme would be applied to the Tenley-E. V. Brown combination. It is understood that later it is proposed to enlarge the Deanwood School and to give the library larger quarters than would now be possible. When the colored junior high school is built in connection with the Cardoza School it is proposed to provide in it larger quarters for a library whereupon the Bell subbranch would be moved and become a full branch. At first the Tenley subbranch would likewise have very small quarters, to be enlarged with the later enlargement of the school building. This plan would make it possible to relieve the Chevy Chase Citizens Association of the burden long borne by them of paying for the services of the librarian at the library station conducted at the E. V. Brown School.

The proposals for the branches in schools is in accordance with an agreement with the superintendent of schools, Doctor Ballon, who has recently been appointed a member of the board of library trustees, but who has always cooperated with us in these plans for a closer linking of the library and schools.

The expense for services for these school branches will be \$5,400 each for the Eastern and Armstrong Manual Training Schools and \$3,000 each for the Tenley-Chevy Chase and the Bell-Deanwood Schools, a total of \$16,800.

4. Special services—(a) Substitutes.—An increase from \$3,000 to \$7,500. At present none of this appropriation is spent elsewhere than at the main library and the two branches, although the language of the appropriation act assumes that a large part of it will be used in conducting small stations in school buildings, such as the one at Chevy Chase, conducted for several years at the expense of the citizens association. Of course, we ought to conduct several such stations in school buildings, in addition to the branches and subbranches specifically proposed in our estimates and described above. We are spending more than \$7,000 a year from our desk fund (every cent of which is needed for books and periodicals), and, even so, lack money for the employment of substitutes and part-time assistants and pages in the vacation season, for extra janitor service at the branches, especially in the case of illness, and to meet various emergencies. A year or two ago this appropriation was cut \$500 in the face of our pleas for an increase.

(b) Sunday and holiday service.—An increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This appropriation was likewise cut a year or two ago in the face of our efforts to have it increased. We are now able to open the central building only 4 hours on Sundays and holidays and are obliged to close at 1 p. m. every Saturday and all Sundays in summer, so that our Sunday and holiday hours are only a small fraction of our former practice and come far short of meeting public demands. We need to increase the Sunday and holiday hours of the central library and we should like to open the branches on holidays, though it is not

proposed to open them on Sundays.

5. Books and periodicals.—An increase from \$17.500 to \$60,000. In addition to a supplemental estimate for services for the coming year at the Mount Pleasant Branch, we shall need to ask for \$25,000 for books for 1925. The present estimates include \$25,000 for the Mount Pleasant Branch—since we need not less than \$50,000 for the original stocking of that branch to serve over 100,000 people. Our book funds for the main library are altogether inadequate and the Southeastern Branch has not yet been furnished with an adequate original stock of books. We need \$5,000 each for the stocking of the Eastern High and Armstrong Manual Training School branches and \$4,000 each for the stocking of the Bell-Deanwood and the Tenley-Chevy Chase alternate subbranches; i. e., \$2,000 for each of the subbranches. Since we wear out 12,000 or more volumes annually, and since books are more costly than formerly and soon wear out, we need the entire \$60,000, and in addition need to have the desk fund freed from being spent for services and again devoted to the purchase of books and periodicals.

6. Bookbinding.—An increase from \$8,500 to \$16,000. Our binding appropriation is so far inadequate that we have fallen behind in rebinding books; that is, we now have not less than 5.000 volumes that are otherwise perfectly good that are held out of use because of our inability to rebind them. This is, of course, wasteful. All binding costs (labor and materials) are higher than

formerly. The expansion of the library system through the branches, as pro-

posed, will largely increase the flood of books to be rebound.

7. Maintenauce, equipment, and repair funds—(a) Contingent expenses.— An increase from \$12,500 to \$21,000. Our maintenance appropriation has been so inadequate for several years that we have accumulated a hig deficiency of equipment (additional and replacements), including typewriters, filing cases, desks, chairs, multigraph, refrigerator, etc. We are unable to print a monthly hulletin of accessions as formerly and are obliged to go without other things that are essential to good service. This estimate covers not only the central library and the two present branches, but the new Mount Pleasant Branch and the six branches and subbranches in the schools,

(b) Equipment of five school branches,-The Eastern High School branch was equipped with shelving and furniture by the Board of Education from appropriations for that building. The agreement between the library board and the school board provides that shelving, furniture, and other equipment shall be supplied by the Public Library. It is estimated that such equipment for the Armstrong branch will cost \$3,250, for Tenley-Chevy Chase, \$1,000, and

for Bell-Deanwood, \$1,750, a total of \$6,000.

(c) Repairs and improvements.—The elevator in the central building is in such a precarious condition that the District inspector of elevators has long since urged its replacement with a modern elevator at a cost of \$3,500. central library book stacks are becoming more and more overcrowded. Temporary relief might be obtained by the erection of portable stacks in the library becure half at a cost of \$3,500. When the central building is later enlarged as it must be to render good service, such portable stacks could be used in branches. Extensive repairs to the roof of our central building are much needed, as well as painting and other repairs at the central library and

the branches. For this \$2,000 is needed. Total, \$9,000.

The tentative total of these estimates is \$336,618. This is nearly double our appropriation for the fiscal year 1925 of \$170,558. But these figures are reasonable and moderate. They represent but 67.6 cents per capita for the population of the District (Census Bureau estimate for 1925 for the District, 497,906) as compared with \$1 per capita declared by the American Library Association to be " a reasonable minimum annual revenue for the library in a community desiring to maintain a good modern public library system with trained librarians." Several of the larger American cities spend just under \$1 per capita and Cleveland spends \$1.27 per capita on its public library.

We respectfully urge that you and your colleagues of the Board of Commissioners approve these estimates in their entirety. The time is overdue for our Public Library to go forward instead of lagging behind the public libraries of comparable cities.

The librarian's report to the trustees is appended to and forms a part of this report. In addition to the detail of library administration, the librarian summarizes the forward steps of the year that mark library progress as well as those that simply mark time and submits certain amendments to the organic act under which the library operates. These amendments (see pp. 18-19) are designed to make the powers and functions of the District Commissioners and library trustees for the operation and extension of the library, now implicit in the present law, explicit and somewhat broader, so that the library's charter may better correspond to present facts and conditions. The trustees urge that the commissioners join with them at the opportune time in asking from Congress the enactment of proposed amendments to the library law that will make of it a more modern charter of library progress.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees. THEODORE W. NOYES, President of Library Trustees.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN

Washington, September 25, 1924.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I have the honor to submit herewith my report on the work of the Free Public Library for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, covering the twentieth year of my service as Washington's public librarian and the twenty-sixth year of the library's life as a going concern.

As usual, this report consists of extracts from or summaries of reports to me by chiefs of divisions of the library service and of my

comments on matters of general library administration.

The most important facts about the library's resources, the service it renders, and its finances are summarized in a table arranged according to the American Library Association's approved form (pp. 12–13). The comparative table of municipal library expenditures, book circulations, and branch-library provision in American cities above 200,000 population, as compared with Washington, has its usual place in the report (p. 14). The utility of these comparative tables, published in these reports for the past 13 years, is favorably commented on by Mr. Joseph L. Wheeler in The Library and the Community (pp. 134-135), recently published by the American Library Association. The treasurer's report, covering the various funds under the supervision of the library trustees, will be found on pages 15-16.

STEPS THAT MARK PROGRESS

A summary of the events of the past year that mark library

progress include the following:

1. For the Mount Pleasant Branch Library building the Carnegie Corporation generously increased its previous allotment of \$100,000 to \$200,000, thereby making it possible to erect an appropriate and adequate building on the site at Sixteenth and Lamont Streets. Ground was broken with appropriate public exercises on March 24, and a two-story building, designed by Mr. Edward L. Tilton, is being built of Indiana limestone. The construction is proceeding favorably: contracts for equipment and furniture have been let, so that it seems likely that the building will be ready for occupancy according to schedule by January 1, 1925, or shortly thereafter.

2. The classification act became effective on July 1, 1924, and brought to most members of the library staff substantial increases in salary, in some cases something less than adequate compensation, but nevertheless substantially better than the grossly inadequate

salaries of the past. (For further discussion see p. 8.)

3. The appointment of the energetic and progressive superintendent of schools, Dr. Frank W. Ballou, to membership on the Board of

Library Trustees promises a strong reenforcement. Ever since he became Washington's superintendent Doctor Ballou has effectively cooperated in plans for the closer linking of the Public Library and the schools. His membership on the library board should help still

further toward that end.

4. Recognition by the American Library Association and the National Education Association of the national significance of the Public Library of the Nation's Capital, through the adoption of resolutions urging Congress to make more liberal appropriations for the support of this library, is a satisfaction and should prove helpful. In these resolutions (printed in full on pp. 17–18) the American Library Association urges "the inauguration of plans that will develop in the Capital of the Nation a public library system that will exemplify the best American methods and standards of library administration." The National Education Association urges "the development of plans that will result in building up in the Capital of the Nation a public library system embodying the most approved resources and service, the most effective relations with the public schools of the District, and the best American methods of library administration."

5. The library circulated into Washington homes and offices 1.136.222 volumes and 99.259 mounted pictures, or 1,235,481 pieces, as compared with a total of 1.133,389 in the fiscal year 1923, consisting of 1.044,213 volumes and 89.185 pictures. Some of the other services, many of which can not be expressed by statistics, are sum-

marized in the succeeding departmental reports (omitted).

STEPS THAT SIMPLY MARK TIME

Contrasted with the steps that mark progress are those that simply mark time. Instead of going full steam ahead to give to Washington the full and rich library service that her intelligent population would so much appreciate and so fully use; instead of developing here promptly and fully a public-library system that will embody and exemplify the best resources and service, the best methods and standards, as urged by the American Library Association and the National Education Association, the Public Library of the Nation's Capital is forced, solely for want of adequate funds, to lag behind other progressive American cities. The following are some of the

"mark time" events of the year:

1. The Mount Pleasant Branch Library, as has been indicated, will probably be ready for occupancy shortly after January 1 next. Although the library's estimates for the current fiscal year as approved by the Budget Bureau contained items for staff and maintenance for the half year and something for books, no appropriation for it whatever was made, with the result that the branch must stand idle and unused for several months unless a supplemental or deficiency appropriation is granted at the beginning of the next session of Congress. Inasmuch as the branch will serve a population of 100,000 to 150,000, it should open with 50,000 volumes on its shelves. For that purpose not less than \$50,000 is needed. Failure to make any appropriation for books is bound to result in delay, for books can not be bought,

catalogued, and marked overnight. At least a skeleton of the branch library staff ought now to be engaged in choosing, buying, and pre-

paring the books, in order to have them ready in time.

2. The estimates for the current year as approved by the Budget Bureau likewise carried provision for staffs, books, and equipment for branch libraries in the Eastern High School and the Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools, thereby seeming to promise the fulfillment of the long-planned opening of branch libraries in certain school buildings, in accordance with a plan agreed upon by the Board of Library Trustees and the Board of Education and approved by successive Boards of District Commissioners. Here, again, there was complete failure to make any appropriation, resulting in further postponement in putting the plan into effect.

3. Estimate proposals for an increase in the staff of the present organization needed to discontinue closing the library every Wednesday at 3 p. m., to stop the using for employing assistants of fine money, which should be spent in the purchase of books to catch up with the pressing demands made upon the library and to meet the added burdens that new branches will throw on the main organization—these proposals were met with an appropriation for three new assistants only, an altogether insufficient number. Requests for increased appropriations for books were entirely denied, as were those for maintenance, in the face of the fact that the library lacks typewriters, filing cases, desks, chairs, and much other necessary equipment, and that the library has been forced to discontinue the publication of a monthly bulletin of new accessions and is compelled to go without many other things that are essential to good service.

Of course, all of this is most discouraging. However, the library's cause is just, and so faith must be maintained that the obstacles that impede present progress will ultimately disappear or be surmounted.

[The increased cost of printing this report, due to advance in compensation in the Government Printing Office, compels the omission of all the reports of chiefs of divisions of the library service in order to bring the cost of printing the report within the allotment to the Public Library for such printing.]

THE LIBRARY STAFF AND RECLASSIFICATION

The classification act of 1923 went into effect on July 1, 1924. The preliminary allocations of the Public Library staff (as of librarians throughout the Government service) made in September, 1923, for Budget purposes were for the most part unsatisfactory. Most library workers were classed in the clerical, administrative, and fiscal service and were allocated to grades so much lower than those in which they fairly belonged as to make reclassification seem a good deal of a mockery. The Government librarians, actuated by the same determined spirit that had led them for the last five years to keep insisting on fairer and juster treatment, were unwilling to accept anything but classification in professional and subprofessional classes and at grades that should fairly recognize their equipment of education and training. They organized, prepared a proposed classification of library positions (on which, by the way, the assistant librarian of the Public Library expended weeks of devoted service) which with a brief was submitted in a printed pamphlet to

the Personnel Classification Board. This was backed by the indorsement of the American Library Association. A determined application for representation in the decisions affecting librarians secured an invitation to the chairman of the committee. Mr. Miles O. Price, librarian of the Patent Office, to become a member of the classification board's committee on librarians. After months of effort, during which the representatives of the classification board gave painstaking study to the library service, the revised allocations of library positions in Government libraries, including this library, when given out were found to be greatly improved over the preliminary allocations. The members of the trained staff of this library were transferred to the professional and subprofessional services. Out of 97 positions considered, 68 were allocated by the classification board in accordance with our recommendations. These included nearly all positions of junior and intermediate grade, but also, among the more responsible positions, those of the director of children's work, the supervisor of school work, the children's librarian of the central library, and the Takoma Park Branch librarian. other cases, including the chief librarian, the assistant librarian, other heads of departments, many members of the senior professional staff, the secretarial staff and some of the custodial force the revised allocations are still one grade below what they should be, though in nearly all cases salaries are increased over the former highly unsatisfactory figures. This is indeed progress. Of course, further efforts will be made to secure the adoption of the original recommendations, for in a matter like this, nothing is finally settled until it is settled right.

It is hoped and believed that the improvements in the salary situation already secured and to be expected through the operation of the classification act will result in a more stable and contented staff, with resulting higher efficiency. The announcement of the improved

allocations has already had a tonic effect.

In a total staff of 106 (exclusive of 5 in the bindery) there were 34 resignations: 17 from the professional, subprofessional, and clerical staff, 12 from the messenger and page force, and 5 from the building force. This turnover of 32 per cent has increased over that recorded a year ago. It is reasonable to expect that this excessive turnover will be reduced through the beneficial operation of the

classification law.

The annual conference of the American Library Association held at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., June 30 to July 5, was attended by the librarian and by Lonise P. Latimer, director of children's work; Emma V. Baldwin, director of library training class; M. Ethel Bubb, supervisor of school work; and Dorothy Leetch, children's librarian. Southeastern Branch. The librarian has continued his service as chairman of the committee on civil-service relations of the American Library Association and as a member of the association's committee on the classification of library personnel. He has likewise continued his service on the national library commission of the Boy Scouts of America and also on the national council of that organization.

The professional publications of the librarian have included the following: Libraries by Mail and Automobile, published in Our World for September, 1923; monthly reference lists on topics of

international affairs in Onr World, some of which lists were later published in pamphlet form; Library and School Cooperation, in the American City for November, 1923; a contribution to a symposium on the Williamson report on training for librarianship, in Library Journal for December 1, 1923; A Sense of Friendliness that Should Pervade the Library, in the Christian Science Monitor for January 23, 1924; and How the Library Serves the Citizen, in School and Society for April 19, 1924, the latter a radio talk given on invitation of the National Education Association and broadcasted by the Radio Corporation of America, WRC. The assistant librarian, Miss Herbert, compiled from nonlibrary publications an exceedingly valuable article on "Librarianship—a Profession," Library Journal, July, 1923. Miss Latimer's excellent paper on standards for children's books, entitled "They Who Get Slapped," given before the children's section of the American Library Association at Saratoga Springs was published in the Library Journal for July, 1924, and also in Illinois Libraries for August, in South Dakota Library Commission's Bulletin for September, and in the Ontario Library Review for August. Though a nonprofessional publication, mention should be made of Miss Latimer's book, Your Washington and Mine (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924), because of the credit it reflects on the library, to which the author acknowledges her indebtedness for the use made of the library's collections and because of the account of the library to be found therein (pp. 312-313).

AMENDMENT OF THE LIBRARY LAW

The organic law under which the library operates is fundamentally sound. Indeed, in declaring the Public Library to be "a supplement of the public educational system of the District," the act took advanced ground when it was passed in 1896. Nevertheless, the law needs to be so amended that it will better correspond to present facts and conditions, that it will make the library's powers and functions more unmistakable, as well as broader, that the library

may have a more modern charter.

In the appendix (pp. 18-19) will be found the library act, together with certain tentative suggestions for amendments. ence to the text of the act will show that it seems to visualize the library as consisting of only one main library, having not exceeding 100,000 volumes, housed in the District Building, and without any branch libraries or other agencies. Although we have been able to build upon this fundamentally sound law a library which now comprises more than 250,000 volumes, housed in a fine central library and two separate branch libraries, together with a third now building, and to carry on large extension activities through the schools and other agencies, it has long been felt that some of the powers which by implication are exercised by the District Commissioners and the library board should be made explicit in the law so that there will be no ground for questioning them; also that the time has come for a broader conception of the library in the law and a larger grant of power to realize that conception.

Some of the suggested changes in and additions to the law require little explanation or defense; others require fuller treatment than can appropriately be given in this report. Some of the new fea-

tures covered in the proposed amendments are as follows:

1. The first section to be amended to make the fact of branch libraries explicit and to provide that they shall be sufficiently numerous and so distributed as to furnish books and information service to all inhabitants of the District.

2. The first section to be further amended so as to empower the District Commissioners to accept suitable library sites and money from corporations or individuals for the erection or for aiding in the erection of library buildings. This would obviate the necessity

of securing from Congress such powers in each instance.

3. The proposed new section 2 to make explicit in the act the power now exercised under an interpretation of the present act by which the library and school boards have agreed to establish branches of the Public Library in school buildings; also to empower the library board to rent suitable quarters for branches and distributing stations.

4. The amendment to the renumbered section 3 to make explicit the power of the library board now exercised to consider as "temporary residents" for the purpose of borrowing books from the library residents of Maryland and Virginia—mostly Government employees—who have regular business or employment in the District; also to empower the board to lend books to other nonresidents on payment of fees and to expend such fees for the support of the

library.

5. The proposed amendment to the renumbered section 5 to make unmistakable in the law the power of the library board to collect fines for the retention of books beyond the period fixed by library regulations and to expend for the support of the library the fines and penalties now so expended. Although authority to do so has been sustained by a decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury dated June 24, 1912, yet from time to time this authority is still questioned. The enactment of the amendments would doubly confirm the power now exercised.

6. New section 6 to make explicit the authority of the District Commissioners to include in their estimates the sums requested by the library trustees for maintenance, for the purchase of building

sites, and the erection or enlargement of library buildings.

It is recommended that the library board make a study of this tentative draft, have a bill incorporating the approved amendments introduced into both Houses of Congress by friends who will work for the passage of the bill, ask for hearings, and try to secure the enactment of a revised library law that should furnish us with a new charter of liberty and progress.

I have now rounded out 20 years of service as your librarian. In spite of the obstacles that have enforced much slower progress than I expected when I came here, they have been happy years of service under a board of trustees who have given to me cordial support and to the library's interests devoted attention.

Respectfully submitted.

George F. Bowerman, Librarian.

APPENDIX TO LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

LIBRARY STATISTICS—AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FORM

Annual report for the year ended June 30, 1924.

Name of Library: Public Library of the District of Columbia.

Population served: 475,966 (United States Census Bureau estimate for July 1, 1923).
Terms of use: Free for lending; free for reference.

Total number of agencies: 170.

Consisting of: Central library, 1; branches, 2 (in their own buildings); colleges, 4; schools, 150 (1,577 collections sent to 567 classrooms in 138 schools): stations, 10; home libraries, 0; playgrounds, 0; summer camps, 3.

Number of days open during the year (central library): 343½ (closed all Wednesdays, 3 p. m.; Saturdays, 1 p. m.; and Sundays and holidays, July 1 through September 30; 41/2 days at deaths of President Harding and ex-President Wilson).

Hours open each week for lending (central library): 66.

Hours open each week for reading (central library): 72 (Sundays and holidays open 2 to 6 p. m., October 1 through June 30).

Number of staff: 112; library service, 92; janitor service, 15; bookbinders, 5. Total value of library property (exclusive of sites); \$722,000.

Book stock and use

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
BOOK STOCK			
Number of volumes at beginning of year			248, 764
Number of volumes added during year:			15, 769
By gift or exchange			2, 50
By binding Sumber of volumes lost or withdrawn.			26
Number of volumes lost or withdrawn			10, 789
Fotal number at end of year. Of this number there are in reference department			256, 51 19, 40
Number of pamphlets received.			3, 113
Number of pictures, photographs, and prints added			2, 644
otal number of pictures, photographs, and prints			56, 12
Other additions: Maps (44), charts (4). Number of periodicals and newspapers currently secured: 658 titles, 846 copies, newspapers 8. Number of publications issued: Annual report and 2 numbers of refer-			48
ence list.			
USE OF COLLECTION			
Number of volumes of fiction lent for home use	324, 615	295, 277	619, 892
Total number of volumes lent for home use	552, 992	583, 230	1, 136, 22
Per cent fiction lent of total volumes lent	58	51	2, 39
Number of pictures, photographs, and prints lent for home use			99, 259
Other circulation: Many clippings circulated, but no records kept. Number of persons using library for reading and study: Large but not recorded.			90,200
REGISTRATION			
Number of borrowers registered during year	14 173	5, 297	19, 470
Total number of registered borrowers			59, 67
Registration period, 3 years. Per cent registered borrowers of population served			
ref cent registered portowers of population served			12.

Finance

eccipts from—	
Congressional appropriations	\$151, 160, 85
State grants	
Invested funds	100.00
Membership fees	
Fines and sale of publications	9, 860, 64
Duplicate pay collection	1, 198, 38
Gifts	
Interest on deposits	
Other sources (if extraordinary, enumerate and state objects)	1 585 76
Unexpended balance from previous year	290, 89
Grand total	164, 271. 28
avments for maintenance:	
Library operating expenses—	
Librarians' salaries	105, 982, 32
Books	
Periodicals	2, 055, 66
Binding	
Supplies, stationery, printing, etc	2, 636, 96
Eurnitum againment etc	382, 80
Furniture, equipment, etc.	
Telephone, postage, freight, express	
Other items	752. 78
Total	140, 910, 99
Building maintenance expenses—	,
Janitors, mechanics, wages, etc \$13, 664. 00	
Cleaning supplies and equipment 907. 12	
Building repairs and minor alterations 444. 55	
Rent	
Heat and light 6, 779, 30	
Other items1, 037. 44	
Total	22, 832, 41
	
Total maintenance expenses	163, 743. 40
laintenance expenditure per volume of circulation	. 144
laintenance expenditure per capita	. 344

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY 14

Municipal library expenditures and circulations per capita, 1923 or 1924

Population figures used are the Census Bureau's corrected estimates as of July 1, 1923; figures of expenditures, circulations, and branch libraries, furnished by the American Library Association or by the library concerned]

Cities (ranked according to population)	Population (corrected census estimate, 1923)	Expendi- tures, 1923 or 1924	Per capita expen- ditures	Home circu- lation (volumes)	Ex- pendi- ture per. vol- ume circu- lated	Per capita circu- lation (vol- umes)	Number of branches	Branches housed in separate buildings devoted exclu- sively to library purposes
New York City New York Public Li-	5, 927, 625	\$2, 276, 082, 45	\$0, 383	17, 610, 692	\$0, 129	2. 97	94	73
brary 1	3, 235, 094	1, 232, 388, 82	. 380	9, 543, 426	. 129	2, 94	46	44
Brooklyn	2, 156, 687	743, 062, 35	. 344	6, 069, 994	. 122	2, 81	28	23
Queens	535, 844	300, 631, 28	. 561	1, 997, 272	. 131	3, 72	20	6
Chicago	2, 886, 971	1, 372, 377, 48	. 475	9, 901, 576	. 138	3, 42	45	4
Philadelphia		547, 040, 04	. 284	3, 939, 938	. 138	2, 04	28	28
Detroit	995, 668	1, 081, 644, 41	1.08	2, 995, 437	. 361	3, 00	17	17
Cleveland		1, 131, 569, 16	1.27	5, 206, 625	. 217	5, 85	55	18
St. Louis	803, 853	400, 900, 65	. 498	2, 332, 112	. 171	2, 90	9	1
Baltimore		300, 212, 25	. 388	917, 751	. 327	1.18	25	24
Boston	770, 406	924, 683, 00	1. 20	2, 922, 861	. 316	3. 79	17	10
Los Angeles		531, 543. 01	. 787	4, 317, 688	. 123	6, 39		19
Pittsourgh		604, 183, 07	. 973	2, 167, 164	. 278	3.49	9	9
Old city		524, 434. 42		1, 693, 271			S	
Allegheny		79, 748. 65		473, 893			1	1
Milwankee 2		350, 093, 72	. 605	2, 554, 606	. 137	4.42	11	3
San Francisco		256, 265, 83	. 475	2, 013, 631	. 127	3. 73	9	1
Buffalo	536, 718	249, 171, 48	. 464	2, 093, 604	. 119	3, 90	7	1
Cincinnati 2	505, 554	320, 341, 33	. 633	2, 011, 370	. 159	3. 97 2. 38	26 2	1 1
Washington Minneapolis 2		163, 743. 40	. 344	1, 136, 222	. 144	4. 44	18	2
Newark		394, 711. 51 451, 975, 35	1, 03	1, 976, 984	. 199	2. 31	3	1 5
New Orleans		94, 534, 61	. 233	543, 173	. 174	1. 34	5	
Kansas City		228, 721. 69	650	1, 328, 522	. 172	3, 77	13	
Indianapolis		298, 713. 59	. 871	1, 552, 551	. 192	4, 53	19	12
Rochester	318, 892	159, 624, 70	. 500	887, 652	. 179	2.79	9	1
Seattle 3	315, 685	274, 432, 08	. 869	1, 985, 161	. 138	6, 28	9	1
Jersey City	309, 034	249, 704, 44	. 808	1, 377, 952	. 181	4.45	7	1
Portland		284, 116. 98	1.03	2, 175, 668	. 130	7, 95	1 17	1:
Denver		156, 124, 09	. 573	1, 305, 626	. 119	4. 79	8	
Toledo		193, 988. 03	. 720	1, 080, 580	. 179	4. 01	11	1
Columbus	261, 082	57, 750. 00	. 221	501, 505	. 115	1.92	0	
Lonisville	257, 671	145, 010, 95	. 562	1, 259, 928	. 115	4.88	13	1
St. Paul 2		199, 617. 05	. 791	1, 458, 816	. 136	5. 78	4	
Providence		213, 126, 90	. 879	772, 727	. 275	3.18	6	
Oakland				1, 012, 031	. 159	4. 21	13	
Atlanta			. 420	519, 842 606, 884	. 180	2. 33 2. 96	8	
		(-0, (-00, 10	124	000,001	. 140	2. 30)	-	
Total and average		14, 254, 008, 62	. 666	83, 481, 592	. 185	3.79	{ 560 16.96	

Circulation department only.
 City and county.
 Census 1920, no estimate made.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

[July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924]

Receipts, desk fund: Balance on hand June 30, 1923	\$224.9	99
Fines— Issue department (central library) \$5,888,87		
Juvenile department (central library) 53,888.87		
Industrial department (central library) 724.28		
Takoma Park Branch 506. 38		
Southeastern Branch		
Stations 221. 46		
Total		
Duplicate collection		
Reserves	141.	
Re'ssued cards Books lost and injured	222.	
	928.8	
Catalogues	15, 8	
Sale of magazines	6. 6	
Sale of booksRefund on magazine subscriptions		
Defend on magazine subscriptions	1. 5	
Refund from committee on large public librariesCheck from Corcoran Gallery of Art for reference list	1, (154, 3	
Interest on account		
Total	12, 752.	7-
xpenditures, desk fund:		=
Books	2, 298, 0	0.
Services of assistants		
Periodicals, subscriptions		
Membership fees in learned societies	84. (
Reimbursing emergency fund	175. (00
Post cards and stamps for overdue notices, etc	450, 0	06
Prints	35. 2	2
Traveling expenses	30. 4	49
Auditing accounts	20. 0	
Rebinding books (outside work)	879. 0	
Premium on bond of treasurer	6. 2	
Premium on bond of notary	8. 0	
Magazine binders	22. 4	
Dodge car upkeep	112. 9 62. 9	
Book lists		
Change fund for Southeastern Branch	5. (0(
Refund of deposit (to replace \$5 stolen from Southeastern Brauch)	5, 0	Or
2 lock boxes for branches	30. (
Printing		7:
Damage charge on prints loaned by Washington Society of		
Fine Arts	15. (
Refund on magazines Miscellaneous		
Total disbursements	12, 333. 1	19
Balance on hand June 30, 1924	419.	5
	12, 752, 7	7/

Donation fund, including Henry Pastor memorial fund, Woman's Anthropological Society fund, and vending-machine fund

GEORGE F. BOWERMAN, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Receipts:	
To balance on hand June 30, 1923	
Vending-machine fund	
Woman's Anthropological Society fund	60, 00
Henry Pastor memorial fund	
Chevy Chase Station for books	
G. H. Paine	3.31
Unclaimed deposit	
Money found in building	30, 79
Conscience money	
Interest on account	
Total.	357. 69
Expenditures:	
Membership fees in learned societies	25, 76
Periodical subscriptions	66, 60
Books	
Vending-machine supplies	45, 04
To balance on hand June 30, 1924	108. 33
Total	357, 69

AUDIT BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

We, the finance committee of the Board of Library Trustees, hereby certify that we have had the accounts of the treasurer of the board audited, so far as the same relate to the desk and the donation funds, including the Henry Pastor memorial fund, the Woman's Anthropological Society fund, and the vending-machine fund, receipts, and disbursements, and find that all the receipts have been collected and accounted for; that the disbursements are represented by canceled checks and vouchers, and that the same are correct. We also certify that the balances shown by the report of the treasurer correspond to the balances in bank.

C. J. Bell, Chairman, John B. Larner, Finance Committee.

Washington, D. C., August 15, 1924.

This is to certify that I have audited the desk fund and donation fund accounts of the Public Library and find that there was on hand in the desk fund account on the 1st day of July, 1923, the sum of \$224.09; that the receipts during the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to the sum of \$12.527.75, and that the expenditures for the same period amounted to the sum of \$12.333.19, leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer as of June 30, 1924, of \$449.55, which amount is shown to be on deposit in bank after allowance for outstanding checks.

I find that the balance on hand July 1, 1923, in the donation fund account was \$65.90, and that the receipts during the year amounted to the sum of \$291.79, and that the balance on hand as of June 30, 1924, amounted to the sum of \$108.33.

Respectfully submitted.

A. S. Vipond, Auditor.

A REASONABLE LIBRARY INCOME

According to the American Library Association \$1 per capita is a reasonable minimum annual revenue for maintaining a good public library steem with trained librarians and much more than \$1 per capita is needed for the highest grade of trained service. Following are the resolutions as adopted by the Council of the American Library Association in December, 1921. This action was reaffirmed by the trustees' section in June, 1922.

"The American Library Association believes that \$1 per capita of the population of the community served is a reasonable minimum annual revenue for the library in a community desiring to maintain a good modern public library sys-

tem with trained librarians.

"This sum should cover a main library with reading room facilities, branch libraries and reading rooms within easy reach of all the people, a registration of card holders equal to at least 30 per cent of the population, and a considerable collection of the more expensive books of reference, with a home use of

about five volumes per capita per year.

"This allowance of per capita revenue may need modification in the case of very small or very large communities, or communities which are otherwise exceptional. Small communities, may often obtain increased library service for the same expenditure per capita by enlarging the area of administration. The situation in large communities is often modified by the presence of good endowed libraries free for public use.
"Communities desiring their libraries to supply these needs extensively and

with the highest grade of trained service will find it necessary to provide a

support much larger than the minimum of \$1 per capita.

This should cover extension work sufficient to bring home to the children, the foreign-speaking people, business men, artisans, advanced students, public officials, and in general all classes of people, the opportunities that such a library is not only ready but able to afford, with a service that is administered by trained librarians having special knowledge in their particular departments."

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, THROUGH ITS Council, on June 30, 1924

Whereas the Public Library of the District of Columbia is inadequately supported, largely because Washington is not a self-governing city, and its institutions are dependent for appropriations on the Congress of the United States: and

Whereas the half million residents of Washington must depend upon the Public Library for library service, and can not borrow books from the Library

of Congress as is done by the Members of Congress; and Whereas, the American Library Association in 1921 adopted as a standard the sum of \$1 per capita as a reasonable minimum revenue for maintaining a good public-library system, and the allowance for the support of the Public Library of the District of Columbia is less than one-half of that standard minimum; and

Whereas the Public Library of the Nation's Capital should not lag behind the best standards of library service, but, on the contrary, should exemplify to American and foreign visitors the most approved public-library practice: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association respectfully urges upon Congress more liberal appropriations for the Public Library of the District of Columbia and the inauguration of plans that will develop in the capital of the Nation a public-library system that will exemplify the best American methods and standards of library administration.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, THROUGH ITS LIBRARY DEPARTMENT, ON JULY 1, 1924

Whereas the action of the National Education Association in successive resolutions asking the Congress of the United States for better support for the public schools of the District of Columbia, to the end that they might serve as a model for the Nation, has most favoraby affected the school situation of the District and been helpful in the successful campaign for increased appropriations; and

Whereas public libraries are an integral part of the public educational system, and the act of Congress creating the Public Library of the District of Columbia declared it to be "a supplement of the public educational system" of the District of Columbia declared it to be "a supplement of the public educational system" of the District of Columbia declared it to be "a supplement of the public educational system" of the District of Columbia declared in the columbia decl

trict of Columbia; and

Whereas the Public Library of the District of Columbia is inadequately supported, partly because public institutions of Washington are dependent for appropriations upon the Congress of the United States in which the District of Columbia has no representation, and partly because Members of Congress, whose library requirements are fully met by the Library of Congress, do not fully appreciate the library needs of the nearly 500,000 voteless residents of the city and the present inability of the Public Library to meet those needs, including those of the public schools: Be it

Resolved, That the library department of the National Education Association respectfully urge upon Congress better support of the Public Library of the District of Columbia and the development of plans that will result in building up in the Capital of the Nation a public library system embodying the most approved resources and service, the most effective relations with the public schools of the District, and the best American methods of library adminis-

tration.

THE LIBRARY LAW, WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

(Note.—The present law in Roman; proposed new language in italics; language proposed for omission inclosed in black brackets ${\bf L}_-{\bf J}_-$.)

The Public Library of the District of Columbia was created by act of Congress approved June 3, 1896, as follows:

AN ACT To establish and provide for the maintenance of a free public library [and reading room], including branches, in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a free public library Land reading room is hereby established and shall be maintained in the District of Columbia, which shall be the property of the said District and a supplement of the public educational system of said District. Said library shall consist of a central library and such number of branch libraries so located and so supported as to furnish books and other printed matter and information service convenient to the homes and offices of all residents of the said District. All actions relating to such library, or for the recovery of any penalties lawfully established in relation thereto, shall be brought in the name of the District of Columbia, and the commissioners of the said District are authorized on behalf of said District to accept and take title to all gifts, bequests, and devises for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance or endowment of said library, including parcels of land suitable for branch library sites and to accept gifts, bequests and devises for the purpose of erecting or aiding in the erection of suitable library buildings; and the commissioners of said District are further authorized to receive, as component parts of said library, collections of books and other publications that may be transferred to them.

Sec. 2. That in order to make the said library an effective supplement of the public educational system of the said District and to furnish the system of branch libraries provided for in section 1 hereof, the board of library trustees, bereinafter provided, is authorized to enter into agreements with the board of education of the said District for the establishment and maintenance of branch libraries in suitable rooms in such public school buildings of the said District as will supplement the central library and branch libraries in separate buildings. The board of library trustees, hereinafter provided, is authorized to rent suitable buildings or parts of buildings for use as branch libraries and distributions.

ing stations.

Sec. [2] 3. That all persons who are permanent or temporary residents of the District of Columbia shall be entitled to the privileges of said library, including the use of the books contained therein, as a lending or circulating library, subject to such rules and regulations as may be lawfully established in relation thereto. Persons tiring outside of the said District, but having regular business or employment or attending school in the said District shall for the purpose of this act be deemed temporary residents. Other persons not residing in the said District may gain the privilege of cithdrawing books from the said library by the payment of fees fixed by the board of library trustees hereineffer provided.

said fees shall be expended by the board of library trustees hereinafter pro-

rided for the support of the said library.

Sec. [3.] 4. That the said library shall be in charge of a board of library trustees, who shall purchase the books, magazines, and newspapers and procure the necessary appendages for such library. The said board of trustees shall be composed of nine members, each of whom shall be a taxpayer in the District of Columbia, and shall serve without compensation. They shall be appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and shall hold office for six years: Provided, That at the first meeting of the said board the members shall be divided by lot into three classes. The first class, composed of three members, shall hold office for two years; the second class, composed of three members, shall hold office for four years; the third class, composed of three members, shall hold office for six years. Any vacancy occurring in said board shall be filled by the District Commissioners. Said board shall have power to provide such regulations for its organization and government as it may deem necessary.

SEC. [4.] 5. That the said board shall have power to provide for the proper care and preservation of said library, to prescribe rules for taking and returning books, to fix, assess, and collect fines and penalties for the loss of or injury to books, and for the retention of books beyond the period fixed by library regulations, and to establish all other needful rules and regulations for the management of the library as the said board shall deem proper. All fines and penalties so collected shall be expended by the said board for the support of the said-library. The said board of trustees shall appoint a librarian to have the care and superintendence of said library, who shall be responsible to the board of trustees for the impartial enforcement of all rules and regulations lawfully established in relation to said library. The said librarian shall appoint such assistants as the board shall deem necessary to the proper conduct of the library. The said board of library trustees shall make an annual report to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia relative to the management of the said library.

[Sec. 5. That the said library shall be located in some convenient place in the city of Washington, to be designated by the Commissioners of the District of columbia upon the recommendation of the trustees of said library: Provided, That in any municipal building to be hereafter erected in said District suitable provision shall be made for said library and reading room sufficient to accom-

modate not less than one hundred thousand volumes.

Sec. 6. That said Commissioners of the said District are authorized to include in their annual estimates for appropriations such sums as are deemed necessary by the said board of library trustees for the proper maintenance of said library including branches, for the purchase of land for sites for library buildings and for the erection and enlargement of necessary library buildings.

